

Message Text

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72-S

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10

RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

SY-10 RSR-01 /147 W

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O R 022050Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3090

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5687

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJ: ARGENTINE REACTION TO US MEMORANDA

1. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES UNANIMOUSLY PASSED RESOLUTION LAST NIGHT REJECTING FORM AND CONTENT OF THE THREE EMBASSY MEMORANDA AND ALSO CALLING ON EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO DECLARE US CHARGE D AFFAIRES PERSONA NON GRATA. RESOLUTION INTRODUCED ON MOTION OF PRIVILEGE BY LEADER OF FREJULI BLOC PEDRINIA AFTER HE HAD OBTAINED SIGNATURES OF LEADERS OF OTHER BLOCS, AND PRESENTED FOR IMMEDIATE VOTE BY 1ST VICE PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER BUSACCA, WHO RELINQUISHED PRESIDENTS CHAIR FOR PURPOSE. HIS FIERY SPEECH WAS INTERRUPTED FREQUENTLY BY APPLAUSE AND ALL DEPUTIES JOINED IN SINGING NATIONAL ANTHEM AFTER VOTE BY ACCLAMATION.

2. CLOSE PERONIST CONTACT WHO HAD RECENTLY TALKED TO PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT LASTIRI TOLD EMBOFF THIS MORNING HE REASONABLY CERTAIN IN HIS OWN MIND THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH WOULD NOT ACT ON RESOLUTION.

3. PERON QUOTED AGAIN ON RADIO/TV THIS MORNING AS SAYING RE CONTROVERSY: "THAT'S A DIPLOMATIC PROBLEM AND IT HAPPENS ALL
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AROUND THE WORLD".

4. ONE OF EMBASSY'S LONG TIME PERONIST CONTACTS WHO IS A CONFIDANT OF PRESIDENT LASTIRI'S COMMENTED TO EMBOFF TODAY THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT RAUL LASTIRI (WHO, AS PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, HAD INVITED THE EMBASSY TO STATE ITS VIEWS IN WRITING) HAD NOT HIMSELF READ THE MEMORANDA BEFORE SENDING THEM ON TO OTHERS. HAD HE DONE SO, CONTACT SUGGESTED, HE COULD SIMPLY HAVE RETURNED THEM IMMEDIATELY WITH A FRIENDLY INFORMAL NOTE SUGGESTING THAT THE FORM AND WORDING BE REVISED BEFORE THEY WERE SEEN BY OTHERS. AS IT WAS, HOWEVER, LASTIRI HAD RECEIVED THE MEMORANDA, AND WITHOUT READING THEM, HAD ASKED HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO TRANSMIT THEM TO FINANCE MINISTER GELBARD FOR THE LATTER'S PERUSAL AND COMMENTS. IT HAD BEEN INTENDED THAT THEY WOULD THEN BE GIVEN TO THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE STUDYING THE LEGISLATION IN QUESTION. THIS LAST STEP WAS NEVER TAKE, HOWEVER, SINCE GELBARD (OR WHOEVER IN HIS OFFICE TOOK COGNIZANCE OF THE MEMORANDA) FOUND THE "UNHELPFUL" AND BELIEVED SOME OF THE TERMINOLOGY TO BE UNACCEPTABLE. CONTACT POINTED OUT THAT THE MEMORANDA HAD PASSED THROUGH A NUMBER OF HANDS IN TRANSMISSION AND XEROX COPIES COULD HAVE BEEN MADE ALONG THE WAY.

5. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF PERON'S LOW KEY COMMENTS WE ARE NOT CONVINCED HE INTENDS TO STOP SHORT OF PNG ACTION. SENATE REPORTEDLY WILL TAKE UP QUESTION AROUND 1600 LOCAL TODAY; IF SENATE RECOMMENDS PNG IN SAME FASHION AS CHAMBER, EXECUTIVE WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RESIST TAKING THIS STEP.
KREBS

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